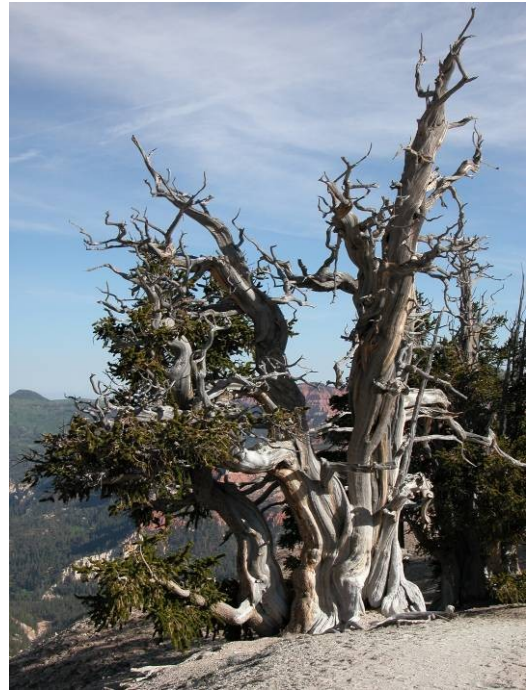


Bristlecone Pine

Pinus longaeva



The Bristlecone Pine grows on dry, windswept ridges where there is little competition from other trees. In spite of the harsh growing conditions, these are some of the oldest trees in the world. At Cedar Breaks there are several huge, gnarled examples along the Spectra Point Trail. These trees are about 1500 years old, but to our north in Great Basin National Park, a tree cut down for study in 1964 was found to be 4900 years old, the oldest yet discovered.

Our Great Basin species is closely related to the Rocky Mountain Bristlecone Pine, *Pinus aristata*, which reaches “only” about 3000 years in age.

Different species of pine are distinguished by the number of needles in a bundle; Bristlecones have 5 needles and can be distinguished from the Limber Pine, which also grows nearby, by their short, tightly clumped needles and the bristles on each cone scale.